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REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner acknowledge the drawings filed on April 13, 2004 as acceptable in the next office communication.

Disposition of Claims

Claims 1-27 are currently pending in this application. Claims 7, 9-20, and 27 are canceled by this reply. Claims 1, 8, and 21 are independent. The remaining claims depend, directly or indirectly, from claims 1 and 21.

Interview Summary

Applicants thank the Examiner for carefully considering this application and for courtesies extended during the Examiner Interview conducted on November 15, 2006. Applicants have reviewed the Interview Summary faxed to the Applicants on November 20, 2006, and have no additional comments at this point in the prosecution.

Claim Amendments

The independent claims are amended to recite, in part, that the

API is configured to provide a common interface for accessing a plurality of address book programs, wherein a first address book program of the plurality of address book programs is associated with a first server-dependent API and a second address book program of the plurality of address book programs is associated with a second server-dependent API.

Further, the amended independent claims recite that the adapter performs operations on address book entries within an address book program, where the operations performed include fetching an address book entry, modifying an address book entry, adding an address book entry, and

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deleting an address book entry. In addition, various dependent claims have been amended to comply with the amendments made to the independent claims. Support for the aforementioned amendments may be found, for example, in Figure 2 and the accompanying text, and in paragraphs [0001], [0002], [0021] and [0023] of the Specification.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 101

Claims 1, 8, and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being directed toward non-statutory subject matter. To the extent that this rejection may still apply to the amended claims, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

The claimed invention is directed toward using one or more plug-in adapters to access and perform operations in one or more address book programs that are associated with different server-dependent application programming interfaces (APIs). Said another way, a generic API is used to communicate between an application and an address book program that is server-dependent. This communication is facilitated by one or more adapters that are specifically implemented for corresponding address book programs being accessed. *See* Specification, paragraphs [0001], [0002], and [0012]-[0014]. In this manner, several address book programs implemented on different platforms can be accessed using a common interface provided by the generic API. The adapter for a particular address book program is used to perform *operations on address book entries* within that address book program. *See* Specification, paragraphs [0021] and [0023].

The Examiner asserts that independent claims 1, 8, and 21 recite subject matter that does not produce a useful, concrete, and tangible result. Independent claims 1, 8, and 21 are amended to specifically recite performing an operation on an address book entry in an address book

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program, where the operation performed is one selected from the group consisting of fetching an address book entry, modifying an address book entry, deleting an address book entry, or adding an address book entry. As agreed to by the Examiner during the Examiner Interview conducted on November 15, 2006, the operations performed on address book entries recite a useful, concrete, and tangible result. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 8, 11-22, 25, and 27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claims 11-20 and 27 are canceled by this reply, thus this rejection is now moot with respect to claims 11-20 and 27. To the extent that this rejection may still apply to the remaining amended claims, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner rejected these claims for reciting limitations including the words "abstracted" or "abstraction." Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 8, 25, and 27 are amended, by way of this reply, to remove these words. The Examiner also rejected clams 8 and 21 for reciting a limitation regarding performing an operation without including additional details about the functionality of the recited operation. Claims 8 and 21 are amended by way of this reply to recite what type of operation is being performed (*i.e.*, a fetch, modify, add, or delete operation to an address book entry). Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by US Patent No. 6,973,448 ("Monberg"). Claims 7, 9-20, and 27 are canceled by this reply, thus this rejection is

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now moot with respect to these claims. To the extent that this rejection may still apply to the remaining amended claims, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

For anticipation under 35 U.S.C. § 102, the reference must teach every aspect of the claimed invention either explicitly or impliedly. Any feature not directly taught must be inherently present. *See* MPEP § 2131. Applicant respectfully asserts that Monberg does not disclose or suggest accessing an address book program as recited in the amended independent claims.

Claim 1, as amended, recites in part:

> an application programming interface (API)...configured to provide *a common interface* for accessing a plurality of *address book programs*, wherein a first address book program of said plurality of address book programs comprising a first server-dependent API and a second address book program of said plurality of address book programs comprising a second server-dependent API; ... wherein said adapter performs at least one address book operation on an address book entry in said first address book program, and wherein said at least one *address book operation* comprises one selected from a group consisting of fetching said address book entry, *modifying* said address book entry, *adding* said address book entry, and *deleting* said address book entry.

(Emphasis added). Independent claims 8 and 21 recite similar limitations.

Monberg relates to providing service listings in *electronic yellow pages* for service providers that operate from outside a particular region. Monberg includes such service providers in a listing generated for search results limited to within the particular region (*see* Monberg, Abstract). In contrast to the cited claim language, Monberg does not contemplate using a application programming interface (API) that provides a common interface to access *address book programs* that are each associated with a different server-dependent API, where the communication between the API and the address book programs is facilitated via adapters that are programmed for each specific address book program. Electronic yellow pages are clearly

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distinct from address book programs. Electronic yellow pages are an online service that allows a user to search for service listings in a particular geographical region. As discussed with the Examiner during the Examiner Interview of November 15, 2006, electronic yellow pages only allow for search functionality, whereas the address book programs recited in the claimed invention allow for deleting, adding, and modifying address book entries.

Monberg uses an API to include text and/or glyph explaining why the service provider that operates outside the search region is included in the search results. *See* Monberg, Abstract. However, the API disclosed in Monberg does not provide a common interface to access several address book programs. In fact, because Monberg does not disclose or suggest an address book program, as explained above, it necessarily follows that the API disclosed in Monberg cannot possibly be used to interface with address book programs associated with different server-dependent APIs.

Further, the Examiner cites element 48 in Figure 1 of Monberg as being equivalent to the adapter recited in the claimed invention. The video adapter shown in Figure 1 of Monberg is used to connect a display device (*i.e.*, a monitor) to the system bus. The video adapter is not, in any way, configured to facilitate communication between an API and an address book program. Moreover, the video adapter of Monberg is merely used to *display* search results on a display device, not to perform operations on address book entries, as recited in amended independent claim 1.

In view of the above, Monberg clearly does not teach all of the limitations of amended independent claims 1, 8, and 21. Dependent claims 2-6 and 22-26 are patentable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

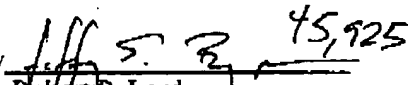Application No.: 10/823,321   Docket No.: 03226/424001; SUN030085

Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 03226.424001).

Dated: November 20, 2006   Respectfully submitted,

By _____

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Amendment Transmittal (1 page)
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